

March 16, 2015

*Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 2700  
Hartford, CT 06106*

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I write to voice my opposition to the proposal in the OPM budget to eliminate Covenant to Care for Children's funding and to ask that you oppose it as well. While I understand that a number of difficult and painful decisions must be made in order to balance the budget in these difficult times, I implore you to oppose this particular budget cut, which will harm one of our neediest and most helpless populations of citizens — children.

Covenant to Care for Children is a statewide non-profit agency that provides assistance to abused, neglected and/or impoverished children. We provide basic, essential goods for children, age's birth to 18. These basic, essential goods include new twin beds, car seats, toiletry items, diapers, and so on; anything that a child needs to succeed in school and life.

Covenant to Care for Children is unique in that we partner with over 200 faith and/or community based organizations to provide children with these basic essential goods. Many of the children receiving these goods are involved with the Department of Children and Families or are at a high risk of becoming involved with the Department. Often the goods provided by CCC, prevent the removal of the child from the home, or, in some instances, results in the reunification of the child with their caregiver(s). In still other cases, the basic goods provided prevent disruption of the family.

In FY 14, CCC provided goods to over 13,000 children in Connecticut. In FY 15, after two years of recession, CCC's state contract amounts to \$151,000.

Eliminating Covenant to Care for Children from the budget could very well trigger an increase in the number of families referred to DCF, a consequence that might further disrupt the family and would probably results in costs to the State that exceed than the amount of CCC's contract.

Please support CCC and oppose the elimination of its State funding.

Sincerely,

Gerard Rivard  
8 Chestnut St.  
Terryville, CT